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Attorney Docket No. 31132.67 / PC873.02
CUSTOMER NO. 27683



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of:
Vincent Bryan

Ser. No.: 09/744,493

Filed: June 19, 2001

For: THREADED CYLINDRICAL MULTI-
DISC SINGLE OR MULTIPLE
ARRAY DISC PROSTHESIS

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Customer No. 27683

Group Art Unit: 3738

Examiner: Stewart, Alvin J.

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TRANSMITTAL

Mail Stop Non-Fee Response
Commissioner For Patents
P. O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

Enclosed are the following documents regarding the above-identified patent application:

1. Amendment in response to March 10, 2003 office action;
2. This transmittal in duplicate; and
3. Return postcard.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge payment of any further fees associated with any of the papers submitted herewith or to credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 08-1394.

Respectfully submitted,

David M. O'Dell
Registration No. 42,044

Dated: June 9, 2003

HAYNES AND BOONE, L.L.P.
901 Main Street, Suite 3100
Dallas, Texas 75202-3789
Telephone: 972/739-8635
Fax: 972/680-7551

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to the Commissioner for Patents, P. O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on June 9, 2003.

Bonnie E. Boyle



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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09/744,493 06/19/2001 Vincent Bryan 46739/252170 5642

23370 7590 03/10/2003

JOHN S. PRATT, ESQ
KILPATRICK STOCKTON, LLP
1100 PEACHTREE STREET
SUITE 2800
ATLANTA, GA 30309

EXAMINER

STEWART, ALVIN J

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

3738

DATE MAILED: 03/10/2003

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

31132.67

DATE	ACTION
6/10/03	response due OA
9/10/03	dead date OA 3/10/05

DOCKETED BY: Laura Howeth 2/25/03

DOCKETED FOR 5/10/03
ENTERED COMPUTER ON 3/17/03
252170

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MAR 14 2003

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Office Action Summary



Application No.

09/744,493

Applicant(s)

BRYAN ET AL.

Examiner

Alvin J Stewart

Art Unit

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 21 October 2002.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-13 and 15-21 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-13 and 15-21 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

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Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
- If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) 7, 8 & 11.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other:

Notice of References Cited

JUN 12 2003

Application/Control No.
09/744,493

Applicant(s)/Patent Under
Reexamination
BRYAN ET AL.

Examiner
Alvin J Stewart

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U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

*		Document Number Country Code-Number-Kind Code	Date MM-YYYY	Name	Classification
	A	US-6419706B1	07-2002	Graft	623/17.16
	B	US-6179874B1	01-2001	Cauthen	623/17.14
	C	US-5928284	07-1999	Mehdizadeh	623/17.16
	D	US-			
	E	US-			
	F	US-			
	G	US-			
	H	US-			
	I	US-			
	J	US-			
	K	US-			
	L	US-			
	M	US-			

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FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

*		Document Number Country Code-Number-Kind Code	Date MM-YYYY	Country	Name	Classification
	N					
	O					
	P					
	Q					
	R					
	S					
	T					

NON-PATENT DOCUMENTS

*		Include as applicable: Author, Title Date, Publisher, Edition or Volume, Pertinent Pages)
	U	
	V	
	W	
	X	

*A copy of this reference is not being furnished with this Office action. (See MPEP § 707.05(a).)
Dates in MM-YYYY format are publication dates. Classifications may be US or foreign.

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DETAILED ACTION

Drawings

In response to the Applicant's remarks regarding the objection to the drawings, the Applicant's representative allegedly submit, in paper # 10, proposed drawing corrections to the Examiner's objection. However, no correction has been found in the previous amendment. For the above reasons, the Examiner maintains the same objection, as shown below.

The drawings are objected to under 37 CFR 1.83(a). The drawings must show every feature of the invention specified in the claims. Therefore, the sheath attached to the housing halves must be shown or the feature(s) canceled from the claim(s). No new matter should be entered.

A proposed drawing correction or corrected drawings are required in reply to the Office action to avoid abandonment of the application. The objection to the drawings will not be held in abeyance.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in-

(1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effect under this subsection of a national application published under section 122(b) only if the international application designating the United States was published under Article 21(2)(a) of such treaty in the English language; or

(2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that a patent shall not be deemed filed in the United States for the purposes of this subsection based on the filing of an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a).

Claims 1, 3-5, 8-13, 15-19 and 21 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by US Patent 6,419,706 B1.

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A disc prosthesis comprising two half housing (416) connected to each other by at least one resilient disc (404 or 604' and 604''). The two housing comprise an external convex surface and an internal concave surface (see Figs. 21 and 24). The external convex surface defines a general continuous thread formation (see Fig. 18). The resilient disc is capable of having a core made of viscoelastic material (see col. 1, lines 16-20).

Regarding claim 21, see Fig. 24.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claim 2 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Graf US Patent 6,419,706 B1 in view of Buttner-Janz et al US Patent 5,401,269.

Graf discloses the invention substantially as claimed. However, Graf does not disclose a disc having an ovoid shape.

Buttner-Janz et al teaches a spinal disc having an ovoid shape (see Fig. 1) for the purpose of creating frontal and lateral bending movement (see col. 3, lines 3-20).

It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the Graf reference with the ovoid shape of the Buttner-Janz et al reference in order to increase the frontal and lateral bending movement.

Claims 6, 7 and 20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Graf US Patent 6,419,706 B1 in view of Mehdizadeh US Patent 5,928,284.

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Graf discloses the invention substantially as claimed. However, Graf does not disclose recesses, wing members and a sheath attached to the housing halves.

Mehdizadeh teaches different species of spinal discs having recesses (16), a sheath (13) and a plurality of wing members (see Fig. 5, element 33) attached to housing halves for the purpose of promoting the growth of bone cells, protecting the interior of the implant core, and for the purpose of having a strong attachment to the spinal bone.

It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the Graf reference with the recesses, the sheath and the wing members of the Mehdi-zadeh reference in order to promote the growth of bone tissue, protect the interior core of the implant and promote a strong attachment to the spinal bone.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Alvin J Stewart whose telephone number is 703-305-0277. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday 7:00AM-5:30PM(1 Friday B-week off).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Corrine McDermott can be reached on 703-308-2111. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are 703-305-3590 for regular communications and 703-308-2708 for After Final communications.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is 703-308-0858.

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AB

AST

February 20, 2003

CJ
CORRINE McDERMOTT
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 3700